

## ABSTRACT

A method and system for deferring transmission of a data packet over a home network is disclosed, where the home network includes a host media access controller program and a media access controller. The method and system include transmitting a first transmit signal from the host media access controller program to the media access controller (MAC) to transmit a data packet, and asserting a transmit start signal from the MAC in response. The method and system further include receiving a carrier sense signal on the MAC indicating activity on a transmission medium, and delaying assertion of a final transmit signal when it is determined that both the transmit start signal and the carrier sense signal are active, thereby avoiding packet collisions.

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